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SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN NATIONAL WATER AGENCY SEEKS TO DEEPEN COOPERATION  
ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

REF: 09 BRASILIA 1153; 10 BRASILIA 106

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¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY. The Brazilian National Water Agency (ANA) seeks to deepen its cooperation with the USG on environmental issues related to water resources. ANA consistently highlights its history of cooperation with U.S. agencies, as well as on-going negotiations with the Brazilian Ministry of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Transportation on waterways navigation projects. ANA would like the upcoming meeting of the U.S. - Brazil Common Agenda for the Environment to highlight present and potential future cooperation identified by the Working Group on Water Resources (see REFTEL A) - such as underground water modeling and monitoring; training and exchanges; and capacity building as well as potential avenues for trilateral cooperation on water related issues. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (SBU) In various meetings this year and last, Raimundo Alves de Lima, Director of International Relations for ANA, and Marie-Violaine Chabrel from the International Relations staff have stressed the importance that ANA places on international cooperation, both bilaterally and multilaterally. ANA is an active participant in the World Water Forum and the Water Forum of the Americas, which they see as important mechanisms because many countries of the world face similar problems in ensuring access to water and water quality.

COOPERATION WITH THE USG IS STRONG, BUT ANA WANTS MORE

¶3. (SBU) Chabrel and de Lima also highlighted ANA's strong desire to increase its cooperation with the U.S. agencies. ANA is partnering with the Brazilian Ministry of Transportation (MOT) on a Memorandum of Understanding regarding technical cooperation on waterways navigation with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), which will rely on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for technical expertise. (NOTE. The MOU is being modeled after another draft agreement between the MOT and the DOT relating to cooperation in roadways, which will fall under the U.S.-Brazil Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation (see REFTEL B). END NOTE.) ANA also has a longstanding relationship with the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) to work on a variety of projects related to subterranean water resources.

14. (SBU) Moreover, ANA would like to see more cooperation between the U.S. Government (USG) and the Government of Brazil (GOB) on water resources. Chabrel and de Lima noted that the Working Group on Water Resources under the U.S. - Brazil Common Agenda for the Environment (CAE) has been useful for discussing potential avenues of future cooperation. During the last meeting of the Water Working Group, ANA identified underground water modeling and monitoring; training and exchanges; and capacity building as priority areas for cooperation. Now, they would like these proposals to be highlighted during the next meeting of the CAE with an eye on near-term implementation. (NOTE: The next meeting of the CAE has been scheduled for March 29 in Brasilia, Brazil. END NOTE.)

#### TRILATERAL COOPERATION ALSO OF INTEREST

15. (SBU) Chabrel also mentioned ANA's interest in pursuing potential trilateral cooperation between ANA and its USG counterparts in other developing nations. She felt that the combination of both countries' expertise and resources could be beneficial for other countries in the region, though she did not mention any specific projects.  
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#### GUARANI AQUIFER

16. (SBU) Chabrel was aware of SOUTHCOM and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' interest in conducting a workshop on how the four countries that share the Guarani Aquifer can cooperate on its management. ANA is interested in this proposal, however, she thought that the Ministry of the Environment's Division of Hydrological Resources should be engaged as they have previously worked with the Ministry of External Relations to organize events of this nature. Post will work with the Ministry of the Environment and interested U.S. agencies to support efforts to arrange this workshop.

#### COMMENT

17. (SBU) ANA's eagerness to engage in further cooperation provides USG with an excellent opportunity to strengthen both technical and political ties in the area of water management. Technical agencies from both countries often cite the similar challenges they face in our two continent sized countries. Furthermore, the prospects for trilateral cooperation in these areas between the USG, GOB, and other developing nations could help the USG to expand its technical relationships with other countries in the region as well. Elevating the importance of these issues in the next CAE meeting would support a strengthening of this technical cooperation.  
SHANNON